

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 03406 111853Z

70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

NIC-01 /056 W

----- 127064

R 111530Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7436

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: KASHMIR

REF: NEW DELHI 2852; ISLAMABAD 2067; STATE 053925

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO
OBTAIN ANY INDEPENDENT EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE "HARTAL" OR
GENERAL STRIKE IN KASHMIR FEBRUARY 2.

HOWEVER, THE MANY
INDIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENT CONFIRM OUR INITIAL
ASSESSMENT (NEW DELHI 2852) THAT IT WAS A PARTIAL BUT BY NO
MEANS TOTAL SUCCESS. AN EXPLOSION IN SRINAGAR THE EVENING
BEFORE, NOW THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN A GRENADE, RAISED TENSION.
SHOPS IN SRINAGAR OPENED AT SOME POINT IN THE MORNING BUT
CLOSED LATER IN THE DAY FOLLOWING A CLASH BETWEEN RIVAL
POLITICAL GROUPS AND SOME STONE-THROWING. THERE WERE ALSO
ISOLATED CLASHES IN ANANTNAGBHZ BARAMULA AND MATTAN.
GOVERNMENT OFFICES REPORTEDLY OPENED, AND TRAFFIC WAS NORMAL.

2. THE DELHI PRESS OF MARCH 11 REPORTS THAT THE AWAMI ACTION

COMMITTEE WILL OBSERVE MARCH 17 AS "SELF-DETERMINATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 03406 111853Z

DAY. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE APPARENT GOAL OF THE

AWAMI ACTION COMMITTEE TO PRESENT ITSELF AS ABOVE ALL PRO-KASHMIRI, AND NOT THE STOOGE OF PAKISTAN, IF IT IS TO RETAIN CREDIBILITY IN KASHMIR. THUS, WHILE IT CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED THE ABDULLAH-GANDHI AGREEMENT, IT GAVE ONLY INDIRECT AND PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO'S CALL FOR THE HARTAL ---AT LEAST UP UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE THE EVENT IT STILL HAD NOT PUBLICLY ACKED ITS FOLLOWERS TO SERVE THE HARTAL. NOW IT HAS INDEPENDENTLY CALLED FOR A PROTEST DAY OF ITS OWN.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, INDIAN "OFFICIAL ELURCES" CONFIRMED MARCH 10 THAT BHUTTO HAD SENT A LETTER TO MRS. GANDHI PROTESTING HER AGREEMENT WITH RASHID ABDULLAH. (BHUTTO FIRST MENTIONED THE LETTER IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN RAWALPINDI.) THESE SOURCES SAID THE LETTER, WHICH REFERRED TO OTHER ISSUES AS WELL (THEY DID NOT ELABORATE), WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOI. JUDGING BY PRESS ACCOUNTS, THESE SOURCES ALSO SAID INDIA WAS LIKELY TO REJECT THE PAKISTANI PROTEST, ALTHOUGH THIS COMMENT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY CREDITED TO THEM. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE ASSUME THIS BHUTTO LETTER IS THE SAME ONE WHICH ALSO REASSURED MRS. GANDHI ABOUT PAKISTAN'S COMMITMENT TO THE SIMLA PROCESS, PROPOSED RENEWED TALKS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES, AND NOTED THE LIMITS ON PAKISTAN'S INTENTIONS IN PURCHASING ARMS. THE GOI HAS NOT NOTED ANY OF THESE NICER SECTIONS (NOR DID BHUTTO APPARENTLY) AND INDIAN OFFICIALS IN THE PM'S SECRETARIAT AND MEA HAVE PLAYED DUMB ON ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE LETTER IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US. END CONFIDENTIAL. SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, KASHMIR, EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE03406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750085-0803
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacebc.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 2852, 75 ISLAMABAD 2067, 75 STATE 053925
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KASHMIR
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006